

# UNL student arrested for fatal accident

BY JAKE BLEED  
Senior staff writer

A three-car accident at 4:46 p.m. Friday killed a 15-year-old Lincoln girl, hospitalized another and resulted in the arrest of a University of Nebraska-Lincoln student, a Lancaster County Sheriff's sergeant said.

Robert James Mullin, 21, of Ralston, was arrested Friday for driving under the influence and felony motor vehicle homicide after the car he was driving pushed another car into an oncoming lane of traffic on N.W. 48th Street, Lancaster County Sheriff's Sgt. Robert Marker said.

Mikela Perez, 16, was driving with her 15-year-old sister, Tawni, when Mullin's car allegedly struck their vehicle in the rear, causing the Perez car to lose control, according to a press release.

The Perez car swerved sideways across the road, blocking the oncoming lane of traffic immediately south of West Thatcher Road, said the Sheriff's department.

A delivery truck heading south driven by an 18-year-old Lincoln man struck the Perez car in the side, killing Tawni Perez.

The 15-year-old was a sophomore at Lincoln High School.

Mikela Perez was admitted to BryanLGH West hospital after the crash in fair condition and was dismissed this weekend, a hospital representative said.

The 18-year-old and Mullin suffered minor injuries in the accident.

Mullin was apparently on his way to work at the Overland Station, 2805 NW 48th St., where he was scheduled to work as a bartender at 4:30 p.m., manager Byron Bloom said.

Bloom said Mullin had discussed trading Friday's shift with another coworker, and that the schedule was somewhat confused.

Mullin was apparently late to work at the time of the accident.

Bloom said Mullin was a good employee and has never arrived at work drunk.

"To my knowledge, he's a clean-cut, good kid," Bloom said.

Mullin is listed in the 1998-99 UNL student directory as a student in the College of Arts and Sciences.

A Lancaster County Court official confirmed Mullin was released this weekend, but did not know the cost of Mullin's bail. Mullin could not be reached for comment.

# Adventure travel fever catching on

WASHINGTON (AP) — Want to endure gut-wrenching flights at Cosmonaut boot camp in Russia, go diving in the near-freezing waters of the Arctic, spend two weeks hiking in Iran? Me neither.

But there's a growing number of people who do like that sort of thing, and National Geographic Adventure magazine has the list for them — the 25 greatest adventures in the world.

"Adventure travel is a burgeoning industry. There are a lot of people with a real yen to do something more than just sit on a beach when they travel, and who have the resources to do it," explained Mark Jannot, executive editor of the new magazine from the National Geographic Society, which goes on sale today.

Billed as the first annual adventure list, it includes a half-dozen newly available exploits along with others that have been around for a while but remain the editors' choices for most exciting.

Walking with the Masai in Tanzania is among the new treks listed in the fall edition of the magazine.

The trip is available to "six athletic adventurous participants," the magazine reports — for a walk that covers 150 miles in 17 days, escorted by outfitters and local Masai guides.

Walkers cross the vast savanna amid elephants, cape buffalo, zebras, giraffes and their predators, tour the famous Olduvai Gorge and conclude their trip during the annual migration of wildebeest.

The good news: Donkeys carry the gear. The bad news: The price is \$6,495.

It took a team of editors and researchers six months to collect nominations and compile the list of the cream of the travel crop, Jannot said.

Perhaps the most extraordinary, he said, is cosmonaut training in Star City, Russia. "It's an opportunity not many people will end up having."

That exploit carries a hefty \$14,950 price tag for a week at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center outside Moscow.

The tour promises flights in a specially equipped aircraft that provides periods of weightlessness, rides in a massive centrifuge that simulates launch and reentry in a rocket and, for certified divers, a chance to join cosmonauts training for weightlessness in a giant water tank.

Jannot recalled his own adventure on one of the listed trips: paddling along the Tatshenshini River in the Yukon, a rafting trip now open to kayakers too.

"The thing for me that was so extraordinary about that trip was the sense that you have of isolation and being somewhere, relatively speaking, no one has gone before," he said.

Though the river has been open to travel for a few years, "you never see anyone else. The number who have gone on that river are fewer than the number of people I see when I walk to the deli for lunch," he said.

The 25 great trips aren't ranked, so there's no No. 1 adventure. Jannot said the group tried to provide diversity both in location and for people with different interests.

Fans of shipwrecks and the cold, for example, might enjoy visiting the ship H.M.S. Breadalbane. The vessel sank in the Canadian arctic in 1853, and the cold water has preserved its remains, 340 feet deep.

The northernmost wreck ever found on the sea floor was located in 1980, and now submersible vessels carry visitors to the site.

It's a seven-hour flight from Ottawa, plus another half-hour hop in a small plane, but the \$9,980 trip also includes evening presentations by marine biologists and the local Inuit and an outing to a polar bear den.

For those who prefer hiking to diving there's a 13-day trek in Iran, beginning with the ruins of the ninth century Castle of Assassins, a walk through the Elburz Mountains north of Tehran then down to the tea plantations on the Caspian Sea.

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# Weather update: Earthquake warms political climate

SAARISELKA, Finland (AP) — The devastating earthquake in Turkey last month had a surprising, positive effect on regional politics, with Greece showing readiness for a thaw in its relations with Turkey by dropping objections to its closer integration into Europe.

At a weekend meeting of European Union foreign ministers, Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou said his country was ready to let Turkey into the 15-nation union.

The earthquake "created a new climate," Papandreou told reporters Sunday, at the end of the two-day meeting. "Human warmth came out of this tragedy. A message came out ... that we must work for peace."

Papandreou said he had spoken with Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem by telephone and told him of Greece's change of heart.

The new stance means that Greece won't block hundreds of millions of dollars in EU grants and loans to help Turkey rebuild from last month's earthquake, Papandreou said. The death toll from the quake now stands at more than 15,000 and is expected to top 20,000.

It also means that EU leaders will likely add Turkey to the list of candidates for membership when they meet in Helsinki for a Dec. 15-16 summit, setting a "road map" of economic and democratic targets the country must meet.

Finnish Foreign Minister Tarja Halonen said that Turkey had moved closer to EU membership, largely because of the "most helpful" attitude of Greece.

Papandreou, however, told colleagues that Greece and Turkey still have a long way to go to settle long-standing differences, notably over Cyprus and Aegean Sea territory,

*"It does not mean that we have solved all outstanding questions, (but) the climate exists for a possible breakthrough in these as well."*

**GEORGE PAPANDEOU**  
Greek foreign minister

which have brought the two NATO allies close to war in the past.

"It does not mean that we have solved all outstanding questions, (but) the climate exists for a possible breakthrough in these as well," Papandreou said.

And, he added, to become an EU member Turkey needs to embrace "European values such as the rule of law, democratic institutions and good neighborly relations."

Importantly, Turkey also must show respect for minorities, notably the Kurds.

Turks have long taken the view that Western European reluctance to let their country join the EU is rooted in the fact that it is a Muslim nation. EU governments have always denied this.

In 1997, the EU snubbed Ankara for the list of candidates to the union, naming Cyprus and 10 other countries — Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia.

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